

Application Serial No.: 10/801,438
Amendment and Response to October 6, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are in the application. Claims 1, 5, 10, and 13 are currently amended; claim 15 is canceled; and claims 2 - 4, 6 - 9, 11, 12, and 14 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 5, 10, and 13 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter has been added to the application for the amendments submitted herewith.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In reply thereto, and without either admitting or agreed with the rejection, Applicant hereby cancels claim 15.

Therefore, the rejection under 35 USC 101 is now moot. Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 - 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ryan et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0215793. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's claims recite a computer-implemented method (1 - 4), computerized system (5 - 9), executable program code (10 - 12), and a method of interacting with a network access device (13, 14) related to mapping and analyzing links between "persons" (including non-human entities). For example, claim 1 relates to a computer-implemented method for managing risk through link analysis mapping that includes receiving, into a memory of a computer system, information descriptive of two or more persons; generating, in the computer system, links associating the two or more

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persons based upon the received information, wherein the links indicate a relationship between the two or more persons; receiving into the memory an identifier identifying a person; and generating, in the computer system, a link associating the identified person with one or more other persons. The method further includes outputting an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons and an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons. Like claim 1, the aspect of outputting an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons is also recited in each of the other independent claims 5, 10, and 13.

Support for the claim amendments including the recitations of outputting an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons and an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons may clearly be found in the Specification at least at paragraph [0027].

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited and relied upon Ryan fails to disclose or suggest the claimed outputting of an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons and an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons. Applicant submits that this is the case since, for example, Ryan is solely concerned with providing notifications from one person (e.g., a user) to other persons only when a relationship exists between the user and the other person(s) and the persons desire to be included in the personal network. As Ryan discloses at paragraph [0264], a fundamental premise of the subject system is that the personal network of entities/individuals are all known to each other. Furthermore, individuals may opt not to participate in the method/system at step 104 (FIG. 2). Also, no individual records are stored if individuals choose not to participate at step 105, (FIG. 2). Accordingly, Ryan does not provide an indication of one or more disconnects between the

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identified person and the one or more other persons since individual records are not even stored for individuals that choose not to participate.

Applicant further submits that it appears that the method/system disclosed in Ryan cannot be modified to output an indication of the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons and an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons since no records are stored or maintained for individuals not having a relationship to a personal network and/or opting not to participate in such a personal network.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ryan fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 5, 10, and 13 under 35 USC 102(e) since Ryan does not disclose each and every aspect recited in the claims. Claims 2 – 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, and 14 depend from claims 1, 5, 10, and 13. Therefore, Applicant submits that all of claims 1 – 14 are patentable over Ryan under 35 USC 102(e).

Applicant thus requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 14, as well as the allowance of same.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

February 6, 2007
Date



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